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Reviews and Notes

Papers of Thomas Ruffin, Vol. II, Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission, collected and edited by J. G. DE ROULHAC HAMILTON, Ph.D., Alumni Professor of History in the University of North Carolina, Raleigh, 1918, pp. 625.

The letters of this volume cover the period from 1831 to 1858. Judge Ruffin took an active part in southern politics and the letters here printed throw much light on the development of the political estrangement of the South, beginning with 1830. Far more interesting are the letters describing farm life in North Carolina. The elegant style, the typical southern sentiment and culture of the old time are shown as well in these letters, as I have seen. Besides being a lawyer by profession, chief justice of the State, he was a planter. He writes of his slaves absconding after quarreling with the overseer and later returning of their own accord. One slave wandered as far as London, east Kentucky. Judge Ruffin reveals in his letters, always calm and dignified, the gradually growing restlessness of the slaves, the irritation of the planters at the increasing interference from the North and the widening gap between North and South. Aside from the historical value these letters make most delightful reading.

Fighting the Spoilsmen; Reminiscences of the Civil Service Movement. —By WILLIAM DUDLEY FOULKE, LL.D., N.Y.G., P. Putnam's Sons, 1919, pp. 348, price \$2.00.

Mr. Foulke has been an active member of the National Civil Service Reform League almost from its organization at Newport in 1881. Under Roosevelt he became a member of the Civil Service Commission, resigning in the spring of 1903 on account of failing health. In *State and Nation* the author thus had about twenty years experience in the field of Civil Service Reform. The movement is treated historically,